



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Cal/EPA Releases Final Policy Recommendations for Green Chemistry Initiative

On the heels of landmark legislation signed by the Governor to reduce the use of toxic chemicals in products sold in California

SACRAMENTO – Today, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) released the Green Chemistry Initiative (GCI) Final Recommendations that seeks to eliminate or reduce the use of toxic substances in products and manufacturing processes -- strengthening the protection of public health and the environment.

“Rather than managing wastes at the end of a product’s lifecycle, Green Chemistry shifts our focus to designing chemicals, processes, and goods that have little or no adverse affects during the manufacturing, use or disposal of a product,” said Secretary Linda Adams. “I’m proud to be ushering in a new wave of chemical policies in California.

The GCI proposals will accelerate California’s move toward a clean, green, sustainable economy through the following six policy recommendations:

- **EXPAND POLLUTION PREVENTION** and product stewardship programs.
- **DEVELOP GREEN CHEMISTRY WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING** through new and existing educational programs and partnerships.
- **CREATE AN ONLINE PRODUCT INGREDIENT NETWORK** to disclose chemical ingredients for products sold in California, while protecting trade secrets.
- **CREATE AN ONLINE TOXICS CLEARINGHOUSE**, an online database of chemical toxicity and hazards populated with the guidance of a Green Ribbon Science Panel to help prioritize chemicals of concern and data needs.
- **ACCELERATE THE QUEST FOR SAFER PRODUCTS**, creating a systematic, science-based process to evaluate chemicals of concern and alternatives to ensure product safety and reduce or eliminate the need for chemical-by-chemical bans.
- **MOVE TOWARD A CRADLE-TO-CRADLE ECONOMY**, establishing a California Green Products Registry to develop green metrics and tools (e.g., environmental footprint calculators, sustainability indexes) for a range of consumer products and encourage their use by businesses.

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The GCI was launched in April 2007 by Cal/EPA Secretary Linda Adams who asked for DTSC to work with Cal/EPA's boards, departments and offices, and other state agencies to develop the recommendations.

The GCI final recommendations are the result of Cal/EPA's collaboration with experts worldwide to garner the best options for a comprehensive chemical policy, and is the culmination of an 18-month process that included dozens of stakeholder workshops and input.

On September 29, 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger signed two green chemistry bills that put two of the initiative's recommendations into action. Assembly Bill 1879 (Feuer) authorizes DTSC to identify and prioritize chemicals of concern, evaluate alternatives and specify regulatory responses. The bill also establishes a Green Ribbon Science Panel to provide implementation advice and expands the Environmental Policy Council to oversee critical program activities. The second bill, Senate Bill 509 (Simitian) requires an online Toxics Information Clearinghouse be established to provide public access to information on the toxicity of chemicals.

"The recommendations developed through the Green Chemistry Initiative constitute a far-reaching, market-driven strategy with an ambitious aim – the launch of a new chemicals framework and a quantum shift in environmental protection," said Director Gorsen. "These landmark policy options will continue California's environmental leadership and foster a new era in the design of a new consumer products economy – inventing, manufacturing and using toxic-free, sustainable products," Gorsen concluded.

The report can be viewed on DTSC's website at www.dtsc.ca.gov/greenchemistry. More information on the California Green Chemistry Initiative can be found at : <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/GreenChemistryInitiative/index.cfm>

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